

Rainier Beach Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)

MEETING SUMMARY

November 16, 2011 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Southeast Seattle Senior Center

4655 South Holly Street, 98118

Attendees

NAC Members:

Cheryl dos-Remedios, Christie Coxley, David Sauvion, Gregory Davis, Harry Hoffman, Margaret Yellowwolf, Peter Masundire, Rodolfo Castillo, Trey West, Vallerie Fisher

City Staff: Nora Liu, David Goldberg (DPD)

Open House Feedback

- City Staff Comments:
 - Comments from community reflected same issues NAC had identified.
 - Received many thoughtful comments and some new ideas. David shared document with NAC listing new items.
 - Nora thanked NAC members for their work on the open house. Other city staff commented positively on knowledge of the NAC members.
 - One hundred and twenty-six people signed in. Felt the community was very engaged; fifty one people checked off areas they would be willing to work on.
- NAC Comments:
 - Felt it went well
 - Met a lot of new community members
 - Student reporters attended and posted a report on their web site.
 - Suggestion to redevelop property between Sars and Safeway.
 - Perception that Light Rail is not well used
 - Some expressed wanting a more direct response to crime
 - Parking issues were brought up, paid vs free. People cited loss of parking; all day reduced to 2 hours; nowhere to park to take light rail.
 - Would like to see more issues related to crime in plan. Address multiple factors. Connect to people's lives.
 - Connect various items in plan to economic development gains. Provide examples.
 - Explain benefits to the community – some items are a bit esoteric

Update on Tu Consulting Work (by Nora)

- Trang has interviewed many people involved in the community. She would like to set up a meeting with a small group to work on a funders forum. Also looking to establish a relationship with a large foundation. Will meet with NAC in either December or January.

- NAC member asked how number of community members with knowledge of plan is being tracked.

David stated DPD is in charge of tracking this information.

Light Rail Station Area Recommendations

- City Staff comments:
 - People would like increased access to station; want more development around stations.
 - Station area presents: a great opportunity for creative development; could provide economic development/housing opportunities.
 - North area is zoned for mixed use. Further south, area is zoned commercial. Could look at changing zoning from single family to multi-family zoning in some areas.
- NAC member asked if community college branch or hotel might be considered.

David stated this might work. Could also have light industrial. David shared a map showing possible zoning for different areas around the station.
- NAC member stated it might be more helpful to apply Land Use criteria, then zoning. Might be a good opportunity to use alternative/experimental options.

Nora stated it is important to have positive elements on the street.
- NAC member asked if station to freeway businesses were employing people from the community.

David stated development could be tied to how many people in the community the business employed.
- NAC member suggested identifying area assets and building on those.

David stated could also start with goals and work from that angle. Freeway access should also be taken into consideration. Increasing density without increased employment and access to recreation will only increase tensions in the area.
- NAC member stated there is nothing compelling at the station to make a rider want to get off there.

David will take the comments and bring back suggestions to the December meeting.

Organization of Plan Update

- How do we make the information most relevant and useable? Idea was to lead off with key points and brief summary/elevator speech.
 - List key recommendations with follow-up specific bullet points.
 - Alternative strategy would be to list over-arching goal followed up by details.
 - Would also utilize graphics, tables, sidebar pieces, etc.

- David Savion shared an example he had created. Simply listing strategies is not very helpful. He devised a system of pull-down menus to list items beneath each strategy. An online document can be more useful for community.

NAC member suggested partnering with IT department on the project.

NAC member suggested retail on-line sites as good examples.

Nora asked if there might be a youth/tech organization/group in the area that might be able to take on some of the work of getting the update on-line.

- David asked if NAC wanted to begin with large, robust overarching priorities. Following up with topics might work. However, this method can lead to departments working within their own individual silos, rather than collaborating well.
- Nora reminded the group they cannot ignore the healthy living component, as its grant is funding this work.

David suggested NAC members decide via e-mail what their top topics are and any other ideas.

Cheryl and David volunteered to work on headings, etc.

Next meeting:

- Trang would like to meet with the group.

Decision was to reschedule meeting for earlier in December and final date would be determined via e-mail conversation.

Announcements

- Urban Impact was awarded an Office of Housing grant of \$6 million for a housing development off of Rainier Ave and Chicago.
- Group working on behalf of children in Southeast Seattle schools just received a \$20,000 funding award.